*'The foolish and the wise'*

# Christ's return

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
**The Foolish and The Wise**
Lesson for March 29, 1981
Bible Study Passages: Matthew 24:36-51; 25:1-13
**Introduction**

This week we continue our look into the "last things" with a consideration of the return of Christ. The focus of our study is upon readiness and preparedness. Caution must be exercised, however, not to become overly preoccupied with thoughts of Christ's return. To spend excessive amounts of spiritual and emotional energy thinking about "last things" is to miss the point of our earthly pilgrimage. Christ confirms that only the Father knows the

## The Bible and Daily Living

scroll of history and that human wisdom, no matter how sophisticated, cannot predict the closing date of earth's sojourn. Several of Jesus' sayings reveal the need, however, for readiness and preparedness.
**Readiness vs. indifference [Matthew 24:36-41]**

Setting a date for the return of Christ has always been a favorite pastime for some religious-minded folks. It is basically a waste of mental energy and time to try and outguess God. Quite frankly, I have a hunch that Jesus would act displeased at resigning from life in order to wait for his return.

On the flipside, however, is the attitude that has little or no regard for future events and a preoccupation with the present. Jesus cites the story of Noah to dramatize his point. In Noah's time the people paid no heed to the warnings concerning the coming flood and went about life in a spirit of "business as usual."

It is important to include Christ's return in our view of life and world history. His return will be a surprise to many for whom such an event plays no part in their perspective on life.
**Faithfulness vs. Unfaithfulness [Matthew 24:42-51]**

It seems strange that Jesus would draw from the imagery of the thief to describe his return. But the image is appropriate to describe the return of Christ as an event that catches everyone off guard, particularly those unconcerned with "last things."

Jesus also cites the "dependable servant" as one who need not fear his master's return. Thus, the faithful of God need not see the return of Christ as a "day of horror" but as a "day of joy."

The "faithful and wise" are those who remain firmly attached to their commitments and whose foresight has a healthy balance with the present. Such a person does not dwell on "last things" to the exclusion of present concerns. An important factor to consider is that when speaking of Christ's return, we should not insinuate he has gone and is due back at some nebulous moment in time; rather, his spirit is still very much with us. Christ is not an absent landlord living in some remote galaxy of the universe. He is ever present and ever concerned for his people.
**The Foolish vs. The Wise [Matthew 25:1-13]**

Here is a parable with the same implications as already stated. The parable tells us that all the maidens slept, and as they slept the bridegroom came and roused them. You will notice that the maidens were not scolded for sleeping; they were scolded for their failure to keep oil on hand.

The sudden appearance of the bridegroom has parallels to the flood, the thief, and the surprise return of the house master from a journey. The sudden flood, the thief in the night, and the sudden return of the master presents a crisis that is unexpected. And when it comes it brings judgment and separation.

Jesus told this parable to awaken his listeners from a "dangerous sleep." This parable warns us of folly and being unprepared, as well as to teach us something about being responsible. The five foolish maidens did not consider that they were responsible for their lack of preparation. They learn this only after the door is shut!

This parable also says that opportunity is not available forever. While opportunity may knock more than once, it does not knock forever. It also teaches us that we are responsible for our relationship to God. No one else is responsible for our oil!

Finally, it teaches us something about the value of time. Time is a gift from God. We have so much of it yet so little of it too. Life must be lived with a sense of urgency and preparedness.

Dr. Trimyer is chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP)

THE PRIMITIVE GOSPEL QUARTET will present a program of gospel music at the Appomattox County High School auditorium on Saturday evening, April 11 at 8 p.m. The group is sponsored by the Grace Baptist Temple, Blackstone, Va. for the benefit of the Grace Christian School. Admission is $3.00 in advance and $3.50 at the door. Children under 12 admitted free. Advance tickets are on sale at the Appomattox Rexall Drug Store and the Dairy Queen.

# Evangelists to meet

The Evangelism Committee of the Appomattox Baptist Association has planned an associational meeting for March 30 at the Liberty Baptist Church beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Rev. Allen Gains, past president of the General Association, will be guest speaker. Franklin Woolard, part-time youth and music director at the Calvary Baptist Church, Concord, Va., will provide special music.

The emphasis will be on Evangelism within our churches and communities through an increased concern for lost people.

There are 28 churches that make up the Appomattox Baptist Association. We hope each church will have a good representation at this meeting.

Beginning at 3:30 p.m. the same afternoon, a workshop has been planned for pastors, outreach leaders, deacon chairman and other church people who feel they will benefit from a time of instruction and sharing ways and experiences of witnessing.

The Evangelism committee consists of Helen Inge, Bob Davis, and Gerald Melton, chairman.

# MH chairmen picked

Mental Health Chairpersons in Appomattox County for the May, 1981, campaign have been announced by Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Warner, Honorary Chairperson of the Mental Health Association in Virginia.

For Appomattox, Mrs. Harry Lawson has been named to serve for this campaign; in the Pamplin area the chairperson is Mrs. A. M. Taylor. For the Spout Spring area, Mrs. Dolly Sowell will serve in this capacity.

As chairpersons, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Sowell will recruit volunteers who will go house-to-house during May.

"Proceeds will benefit the Mental Health Association in Virginia", said Mrs. Warner.

As a non-governmental agency, the Association can and does speak for the consumer -- the person who needs professional help for an emotional disturbance.

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The Pastor Speaks

# God's two-edged sword

By CARL H. PATTON

In Romans 1:16-19 Paul presents to us the two-edged sword, the Gospel of God. He says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be know of God is manifest in them for God hath showed it unto them.

For so many of us, we think of the gospel as the means of salvation and peace with God. We read the Bible and find in it comfort and strength, and this is as it should be for those who believe in its message. In the case of the believer, the word of God cuts toward eternal life.

However, the word of God also has a second edge to its cutting blade. That is the edge which cuts toward eternal damnation. We do not like to think about that aspect of the message very much. In John 3:16-21 Jesus presents us with this same information. In verse 18, it says, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Life presents us with choices. We choose between one set of clothes and another, between one car or another, between one job and another. In many cases, we must actively choose the one over the other for a decision to be made. However, there are times when we can choose to not actively decide, and allow choices to be in the hands of others. By being passive, we allow others to make the choice for us. We think we have gotten out of deciding, when in fact we have only chosen to allow others to be in charge, and that was in itself a decision.

In the case of the Gospel, it is possible to actively decide FOR or AGAINST the offered salvation. It is also possible to decide NOT TO DECIDE. Some people think that by not deciding, they will not be called to judgement. However, the truth of the matter is, a decision to not decide is ultimately a decision to not believe. In the United States, there are very few who have not been exposed to at least a part of the message of Jesus Christ. Yet there are many who have decided not to decide, not yet at least.

There is a story about the Devil and his army having a strategy session. One said, "Tell people the Bible is just a collection of myths and legends." Another said, "Tell people that Jesus' disciples stole the body and hid it, that He never was resurrected." Another said, "Tell them that it does not matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere." None of these seemed to satisfy the Devil, when up popped another little devil and said, "Tell them it is all true, but also tell them they have plenty of time to decide. Tell them to decide, but not just yet."

And your know what? It seems to me that the Devil liked that plan, very, very much.

Carl H. Patton is pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Appomattox.

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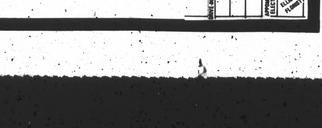

Kay Michaele Chenault

# Miss Chenault to wed Mathew David Lair

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Chenault of Appomattox, Va. are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kay Michaele to Mathew David Lair, son of Mrs. Woodrow D. Wallis of Pamplin, Va. and the late Commandor Patrick Lair.

Miss Chenault is a graduate of Virginia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing and is employed by Piedmont Airlines as a flight attendant.

Mr. Lair attends Longwood College and will graduate in July.

An August wedding is being planned.

Photo by Robert Pankey

Miss Sherri O'Neil Harris

# Miss Sherri Harris to wed Robert Godsey

Miss Sherri O'Neil Harris and Mr. Robert Kendell Godsey would like to announce their forthcoming marriage.

Miss Harris is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Harris of Appomattox, Va. She is a 1979 honor graduate of Appomatox County High School and is presently employed at Aerofin Corporation in Lynchburg, Va.

Mr. Godsey is the son of Mrs. Marion Greenwell of Brookneal, Va. and Mr. R. O. Godsey, Jr. of Middletown, Pa. He attended Appomatox County High School and is presently employed at Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant in Middletown, Pa.

The wedding will be an event of April 25.

# Miss Meadows honored

Miss Darlene Wanda Meadows, whose marriage to G. Daniel Stratton will take place in May, was honored Friday evening, March 21, 1981, with a bridal showar, given by Mrs. Frances Evans, in the Fellowship Hall of Flat Creek Baptist Church, Lynchburg.

On Saturday, March 22, 1981, Martha Ewers and Jean Hensley honored Miss Meadows with a bridal shower at the home of Ms. Ewers.

The Stratton-Meadows wedding will take place at 7 o'clock in the evening of May 16, 1981, at Flat Creek Baptist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Carolyn Meadows and Mr. Ramsey Meadows of Lynchburg. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Marshall Stratton of Concord, Va.

Although no invitations are being issued, friends and relatives are expected to attend.

# Social News

Mr. and Mrs. George Craddock and Eddie Craddock of Virginia Beach spent the weekend with Mrs. Janie Chernault. They also visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Anderson on Saturday evening.

* * *

Mrs. Florence Trent and daughter, Lina Trent spent last week as guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cameron White of St. Petersburg, Fla.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fraley of Blacksburg spent several days last week visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Gillaspie of Concord and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fraley of Appomattox.

Mrs. J. W. Evans was called to Columbus, Ga., due to the death of Calvin Evans.

* * *

Bruce H. Paulette and son, B. H. III, and Webb Babcock, Jr. spent Saturday in Roanoke.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Evans have returned from an extended vacation in Florida.

* * *

Mrs. R. S. Akers has returned to her home in Washington after spending some time in the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Harvey.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Lathan Harvey have returned from a visit with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Harvey in Savannah, Ga.

* * *

# Miss Grishaw honored

Miss Carolyn Grishaw, bride-elect, was honored on Saturday, March 21, when Mrs. Bruce H. Paulette and Mrs. Pat B. Paulette entertained at the former's home on Evergreen Street with a floating shower from two until five o'clock in the afternoon.

The honoree was presented a corsage of daisies and arrangements of daisies and baby's breath on the dining room table and in the living room carried out the color scheme of yellow, green and white.

Guests attending included Mrs. Melvin Grishaw, mother of the honoree; Mrs. W. C. Garrett, grandmother of the bride-elect; Mrs. James E. Totty, mother of the groom, and friends and relatives of the couple.

# Miss Doss honored

Miss Glenda Faye Doss, whose marriage to Samuel L. Page will be an event of April 11, 1981, was recently honored with a lingerie shower on the evening of March 12.

Hostesses for the occasion were Miss Susan Rosser and Mrs. Dale D. Cumbie, entertaining in the Rosser home in Appomattox.

Close friends of Miss Doss and relatives of the couple attended.

# Birth announced

Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Farris proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Ashley Christine, on March 6, 1981. She weighed seven pounds and five ounces and was nineteen and three-quarter inches in length. She has a brother, Jason Todd, age 22 months.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Simpson of Appomattox. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Wallace E. Farris of Lynchburg.

Robert Coleman Owen

Deborah Lynn White

# Miss White will marry Mr. Robert C. Owen

Mr. and Mrs. David B. White of Appomattox announce the engagement of their daughter, Deborah Lynn, to Robert Coleman Owen, son of Mrs. Louis L. Owen and the late Ralph C. Owen of Norfolk.

Miss White is a 1975 graduate of Appomattox County High School and attended James Madison University in Harrisonburg. She is presently teaching at Windsor High School in Windsor, Va.

Mr. Owen is a graduate of Norview High School, Norfolk and will graduate from Christ For The Nations Institute, Dallas, Texas, in May of this year. He plans to enter the ministry after graduation.

Their wedding will take place on June 13 at one o'clock in the afternoon at Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox.

Friends are cordially invited to share with the families in this joyful occasion.

ELIZABETH JAMERSON and Estelle Martin (from left) are part of the Judges' Hospitality Committee for the Appomattox Garden Club's Spring Flower Show. Committee Chairman is Miss Edith O'Brien. The committee met this past week in the home of Mrs. Estelle Martin to plan a luncheon for the judges, which will be held in the Martin home. "Spring Awakens" will be an event of Saturday, April 4, at Memorial United Methodist Church. The public is cordially invited to attend and view the exhibits on display from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Admission will be $1 for adults and fifty cents for students.

# Local PWP slates dance

The Greater Lynchburg Chapter of Parents Without Partners will hold a record-tape dance on Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m. in the Rainbow Forest Recreational Center, Laxton Rd., Lynchburg.

Proceeds will be used for Family Activities Programs sponsored by PWP.

The public is invited. Tickets will be $4.00. For more information call 352-8952 Wed. or Fri.

# Ferrell delivers message

By MRS. TILDEN LEE

The Appomattox Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy met March 19 at noon for their regular monthly meeting. Thirteen members were present, and one visitor.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Hazel Lee Martin.

Pledges to the United States Flag were led by Mrs. Lucille Ferrell.

Salutes to the Virginia Flag were led by Mrs. Louise Plunkett.

Salutes to the Confederate Flag were led by Mrs. Mary Sue Gordon.

Mrs. Martin read the ritual and Confederate prayer.

Mrs. Martin announced that a Virginia Regimental History of the second Virginia Calvary is being published by the Virginia Divsion of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The local chapter is now taking orders for this volume, which will be a first edition prior to publication later during the year.

Many of our Appomattox County Confederate soldiers served in the second Virginia Calvary. Anyone interested in placing an order please contact Mrs. O. W. Martin, Jr., Route 3, Box 282, Appomattox, Virginia. The cost of each history will be $11.50 which will include tax and postage. Please make checks payable to the Virginia Division United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Mrs. Margaret Beale was welcomed into the chapter and presented the United Daughters of the Confederacy certificate.

Mrs. Lucille Ferrell, chapter historian, presented a program on "The Battle of Fredericksburg".

"The Battle of Fredericksburg was one of the bloodiest battles fought in the War Between the States. The outnumbered army of Northern Virginia had delivered a stunning defeat to the Army of the Potomac. Union forces suffered casualties of 12,653 killed, wounded or missing. Confederate losses numbered 5,309.

Lee knew the northern army could replace its losses without strain but confederate losses would not be so easy to replace. The city of Fredericksburg was practically destroyed. Only the court house and spires of the churches remained standing. The buildings rebuilt around partially damaged walls still contain shell fragments from the battle to this day.

On April 9 at 11:00 a.m. a memorial service to memorialize our dead will be held at the Confederate Cemetery at the surrender grounds.

The speaker will be Rev. Dave Camden.

The public is invited.

MRS. HAZEL LEE MARTIN (left), president of the Appomattox Chapter of UDC, and Mrs. Louise Plunkett (right), chapter registrar, present UDC certificate to Mrs. Margaret Beale, new member of the local chapter of UDC.

# Book fair progresses

The Appomattox Elementary School will have a Book Fair March 23-27. Conducted by Margaret Nimmo, librarian, the Book Fair will contain paperback books, posters, workbooks, puzzle books, tray puzzles, and other items for sale. A quantity of books will be in stock for immediate purchase and orders will be taken when needed.

Parents of AES students are welcome to come browse, purchase or order books.

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